

CREATING AND MANAGING STRUCTURED DATA IN AN ELECTRONIC SPREADSHEET

Abstract

5 An electronic spreadsheet is provided for automatically creating, expanding, and
validating lists of cells, without manual intervention by a user. A list is created in the
electronic spreadsheet by receiving a user request for selecting a cell range in the
electronic spreadsheet, identifying a list range for the selected cell range in the electronic
spreadsheet, determining a header row for the list range, and generating a border for
10 surrounding the list range. A user total row for calculating one or more aggregation
functions for data stored in the selected cell range may also be identified. A list is
expanded by determining that one or more cells are adjacent to the list and automatically
expanding the list to include the new cells. A list is validated by determining a data type
of data entered into the list and comparing the data type of the data entered into the list to
15 a list data type. If, as a result of the comparison, the data type of the data entered into the
list does not match the list data type, then the data type of the data entered into the list is
invalid. If the data type of the data entered into the list matches the list data type, then
the validity of the data entered into the list based on the data type is determined.